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REPORTS

OF THE

SELECTMEN, TREASURER,

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1884.

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Report of Treasurer and Selectmen.

The Treasurer and Selectmen credit the town for the year ending March 1, 1884, *as follows:*

By	list of taxes assessed April 1, 1883,	$2,699.40
	Dog tax,	35.00
	School-house tax in Dist. No. 3,	84.99
	Cash of former treasurer,	687.99
	Received of taxes assessed in 1882,	307.31
	" interest on taxes of 1882,	3.75
	County for support of poor,	156.00
	Estate of Anna Rankins,	82.12
	Interest on Luther Barrett note,	6.06
	On J. M. & J. H. Fogg note,	3.00
	From State treasurer, bounties paid on crows,	28.30
	Railroad tax,	34.83
	Savings Bank tax,	240.20
	Literary Fund,	46.92
	Cash borrowed of Almira Huckings,	200.00
	" " D. B. Clement,	50.00
	Interest on taxes of 1883,	1.82
	Highway tax of 1882 collectable under law of 1881,	12.18
		$4,679.87

Disbursements of Treasurer.

Outstanding bills:	
Paid F. B. Tilton, note in full,	$975.52
Hattie N. M. Morrison, on note,	20.00
G. W. Rankins, labor on turnpike,	.75
D. B. Mitchell, for plank,	3.50
J. A. West, School-house tax assessed in 1882,	41.13
	$1,040.90

Support of Schools.

Paid Mary J. Wiser,	$91.02
J. S. Morrison,	31.29
Geo. F. Fletcher,	58.82
J. E. S. Fifield,	44.83
John Smith,	67.73
G. B. Dolloff,	114.41
Simeon C. Brown,	27.86
A. W. Nichols,	11.35
John Nutting,	20.77
	$468.08

Support of Poor.

Paid for Hezekiah and Sally Heath, (County)	$159.00

Town Officers' Bills.

Paid J. L Morrison, S. S. Committee,	$30.00
" Town Clerk,	13.00
D. B. Clement, Supervisor,	2.00
D. S. Batchelder, "	5.00
P. B. Smith, "	4.50
L. C. Tilton, Tax Collector,	35.00
D. B. Clement, jr., Selectmen,	47.00
G. B. Dolloff, "	44.00
M. M. R Mitchell, "	21.00
J. S. Morrison, Treasurer,	24.00
	$225.50

Highways and Bridges.

Paid B. T. Nichols, shoveling snow off of Union bridge,	$1.75
J. H. Fogg, labor on River road,	3.00
W. H. Sargent, for plank,	2.25
P. B. Smith, breaking road in Dist. No. 10,	3.00
Repairs of Union bridge,	6.30
Labor and plank on new road,	20.94
Breaking new road '83 and '84.	8.50
W. B. Nichols, lumber for Barber bridge,	6.18
S. R. Glover, " " "	12.35
Expense of building Fuller bridge,	800.44
	$864.71

Miscellaneous Bills.

Paid Bounties on crows,	$10.10
R. W. Musgrove, printing reports,	13.00
J. L. Morrison, for school books,	1.75
C. Woodman, for watering tub,	3.00
R. J. Pillsbury, school-house tax in Dist. No. 3,	83.00
J. B. Sanborn for collector's and surveyor's books,	2.95
S. R. Glover, damage on plow,	3.35
Postage, stationery, express, &c.,	2.68
Printing tax bills,	1.00
Recording births and deaths,	2.50
Selectmen's expenses,	10.00
For use of money,	4.62
Printing school notices,	.80
	$138.75

Abatement of Taxes Assessed April 1, 1883.

William H. Sawyer paid in Plymouth,	$2.05
J. S. Morrison, dog tax,	1.00
George I. Pillsbury, paid in Mass.,	2.57
George Tobine,	1.03

Daniel Smith heirs,	$11.50
W. B. Nichols, loss of horse and cow,	1.40
D. B. Clement, loss of horse,	1.80
J. A. Bartlett, loss of cow,	.40
R. B. Gilpatric, dog tax,	1.00
	$22.75
Abatement of taxes of 1882,	$20.76

Recapitulations.

Amount received,		$4,679.87

Paid out.

Paid outstanding bills,	$1,040 90	
Support of schools,	468.08	
" poor,	159.00	
Town Officers' bills,	225.50	
Highways and bridges,	864.71	
Miscellaneous bills,	138.75	
Abatements,	22.75	
State tax,	312.00	
County tax,	481.48	
Non-resident highway tax worked,	25.79	
Due on Collector's book,	554.53	
Cash in treasury,	386.38	
		$4,679.87

Demands Against the Town.

Surplus Revenue notes,	$2,095.81
Alice B. Nichols,	60.60
Nathan Chapman,	361.46
Mary J. Mitchell,	728.17
Roxie Dolloff,	365.95
Hattie N. M. Morrison,	128.44
D. B. Clement,	1,621.77
D. B. Clement, jr ,	391.34
Arvilla F. Barnard,	64.89

G. F. Fletcher,	$141.42
L. R. Clement,	176.30
C. M. Barnard,	953.05
S. W. Tilton,	235.45
M. M. R. Mitchell,	240.21
Caleb Whittemore,	430.56
A. O. Dolloff,	33.45
Isaac C. Tilton,	1,233.25
Eliza A. Johnson,	447.59
Almira Huckins,	207.80
	$9,917.51.

Assets of the Town.

Due on Collector's book of 1881,		$8.40
" " " 1882,		2.10
" " " 1883,		554.53
from J. M. and J. H. Fogg, on note.		8.65
T. R. Spiller on note,		123.95
Luther Barrett on note,		107.06
County for support of poor,		48.00
Calvin Blanchard,		10.50
C. H. Spiller,		5.00
		$868.19
Cash in treasury,		386.38
Total assets of the town,		$1,254.57
Demands against the town,	$9,917.51	
Total assets of the town,	1,254.57	
		$8,662.94
Deduct surplus revenue,		2,095.81
Town debt,		$6,567.13

J. S. MORRISON, *Treasurer.*

D. B. CLEMENT, Jr.,
G. B. DOLLOFF,
M. M. R. MITCHELL. } *Selectmen of Bridgewater.*

Report Supt. School Committee.

District No. 1.

One term of 17 weeks (with two weeks' vacation) commenced Sept. 10, under the instruction of Miss Addie C. Woodman, of this town, who has taught in this (her own) district for many years, and always, I think, with prefect satisfaction to all. Home talent thus employed speaks for itself. I think more improvement was made by not having but one term; and I think it would be the same in other districts of not more than 15 weeks, or so, of school in a year. There were some new scholars this term which helped the appearance of the school very much. I think the teacher labored faithfully, and I can say that I was well satisfied with the progress made—it was the best examination that I have ever seen at this school. I visited the school twice; the order was excellent. Whole number of pupils, 11; average attendance, 9.55. Studying reading, 11; spelling, 11; penmanship, 4; arithmetic, 10; grammar, 5; history, 5; physiology, 1; algebra, 1. Roll of honor: Elmer P. Wiser, Orren W. Wiser, Orra L. Wiser, Belle Wiser, Clarence E. Brown, Edna F. Woodman, Leon A. Woodman, Lula Heath, Inez Heath, Clinton Davidson. I see by the register that the last three did not commence until the 6th and 7th week of school. Number of visits by parents and others, 5. Wages of teacher per month, $16; including board, $20. Whole amount of school money, $91.02. Mrs. Norman Wiser, Prudential Committee.

District No. 2.

One term of 9 weeks commencing April 30, taught by Miss Martha S. Smith, of Ashland. It was her first term of teaching. The school was as usual at the house of the Prudential Committee. I visited the school at the commencement and the close. The order was excellent, and the improvement fair. Whole number of scholars, 3; average attendance, 3. Studying reading, 3; spelling, 3; penmanship, 2; arithmetic, 3; geography, 2. Roll of honor: Joseph H. Morrison. Edna A. Morrison, "Myrtie C. Ferrin, tardy twice." Number of visits by parents and others, 6. Wages of teacher per month, $8; including board, $14. Whole amount of school money, $31.29. Joseph S. Morrison, Prudential Committee. Number of scholars in the district between 5 and 15 attending no school, 2.

District No. 3.

Two terms of school, both taught by Miss Fannie M Spencer, of Plymouth. This was Miss Spencer's first experience in teaching, but she succeeded finely and both terms of school are worthy of high commendation as regards both teacher and pupils. She has been a pupil at the State Normal School, but I think she will make an excellent teacher all the same. I wish other districts would get as much schooling according to their money as this one does. The first term of 8 weeks began May 7. Whole number of pupils, 11; average attendance, 9. Studying reading, 11; spelling, 11; penmanship, 7; arithmetic, 10; geography, 6; grammar, 3; composition, 3. Roll of honor: Carrie M. Dalton, Abbie F. Batchelder, Mary E. Batchelder, Mary E. Fletcher. Number of visits by parents and others, 7. Wages of teacher per month, $11. The second term of 14 weeks began Oct. 22. I visited both schools at the commencement and close, the order was excellent at all my visits. Whole number of pupils, 13; average attendance, 12. Studying reading, 13; spelling, 13; penmanship, 13; arithmetic, 12, geography, 9; grammar, 4. Roll of honor: Abbie F. Batchelder, Mary E. Batchelder, Mary E. Fletcher, Samuel G. Pillsbury. Number of visits by parents and others, 17. Wages of teacher per month, $13; board and wood, amounting

to $50, given by the district. Whole amount of school money, $58.82. Geo. F. Fletcher, Prudential Committee.

District No. 5.

One term of 8 weeks, commencing Sept. 20, under the instruction of Mrs. Addie A. Emery, of Bristol, a teacher of much experience. This school was No. 1. I like to be agreeably surprised at the close of a school, and I was at the close of this. How the teacher succeeded in making so good improvement among so many small scholars is more than I can tell. The examination at the close was witnessed by nearly all the district, and did both teacher and scholars honor. I visited the school twice; order, excellent. Whole number of scholars, 16; average attendance, 15. Studying reading, 14; spelling, 14; penmanship, 14; arithmetic, 12; geography, 4; grammar, 3. Roll of honor: Rose E. Fifield, Addie G. Fifield, Edith M. Fifield, Edwin A. Fifield, Emma Linn, Freddie Linn, Augustus Moulton, George H. Wheeler. Number of visits by parents and others, 21. Wages of teacher per month, $14; including board, $22. Whole amount of school money, $44.83. J. E. S. Fifield, Prudential Committee.

District No. 7.

Two terms of school. The first term of 6 weeks was taught by Miss Lizzie P Whittemore, of this town, a teacher of considerable experience. I visited the school twice; at the close I was disappointed, the order was poor and the scholars did not seem to know much about what they had been over. Whole number of scholars, 12; average attendance, 11. Studying reading, 12; spelling, 12; penmanship, 12, arithmetic, 9; geography, 5; grammar, 2; history, 2. Roll of honor: Claud H. Brown, Charlie M. Drake, Charlie H. Smith, Willie Willard, Annie C. Brown, Ona A. Smith. Number of visits by parents and others, 16. Wages of teacher per month, $14; including board, $20.

The second term of 8 weeks began Sept. 3, under the instruction of Miss Mary A. Morrill, of this town, who has taught this school several terms before, but this term she beat

her own record, and well deserves high praise. The school can well be ranked No. 1. I visited the school twice, the order was excellent, and the pupils understood what they had been over. Whole number of scholars, 13; average attendance, 13. Studying reading, 13; spelling 13; penmanship, 10; arithmetic, 10; geography, 5; grammar, 3; history, 2. Roll of honor: Claud H. Brown, Harry B. Clement, Charlie Drake, Charlie H. Smith, Willie Willard, Anna C. Brown, Flora D. Smith. Number of visits by parents and others, 9. Wages of teacher per month, $15; including board, $20. Whole amount of school money, $67.73. John Smith, Prudential Committee.

District No. 8.

Two terms of school (caused by a short vacation) taught by Miss Nettie A. Hardy, of Hebron, a teacher of great experience. The first term of 6 weeks began Aug. 6, which I visited at the commencement and close. The order was excellent, with the exception of 2 or 3 pupils, at the close; but the teacher said this had not happened before and assured me it would not again. Good improvement was made by most of the pupils—all I think that could be expected. The primer class in reading deserve mention for the improvement they made. Whole number of pupils, 16; average attendance, 14. Studying reading, 13; spelling, 16; penmanship, 7; arithmetic, 12; geography, 7; grammar, 8; composition, 2; algebra, 2. Roll of honor: Agnes M. Dolloff, Alice M. Tilton, Harris W. Hammond, Elmer H Hammond Alfred H. Tilton. Number of visits by parents and others, 27. Wages of teacher per month, $16; includnig board, $23. The second term of 11 weeks began Oct. 8. I did not visit this term. Miss Hardy has a very pleasant, pleasing way for a teacher, and judging it by the first term, I doubt not that she had an excellent school. Whole number of pupils, 19; average attendance, 16.36. Studying reading, 19; spelling, 19; penmanship, 14; arithmetic, 15; geography, 8; grammar, 10; history used as a reader; composition, 8; book-keeping, 3; algebra, 2. Roll of honor: Mabel M. Dolloff, Alice M. Tilton, Charles E. Spencer, Edwin B. Whittemore, Elmer H. Hammond, Frank H. Tilton. Number of visits by parents and

others, 17. Wages of teacher per month, $20; including board, $27. Whole amount of school money, $114.41. Gilbert B. Dolloff, Prudential Committee.

District No. 9.

One term of 7 weeks, commencing Aug. 20, taught by Mr. George W. Gilman, of North Sanbornton. This was Mr. Gilman's first school, but he labored to interest the pupils in their studies, which he succeeded in doing to their manifest good advantage. It was an excellent school, and I think Mr. Gilman will make a good teacher. I visited the school twice; order excellent. Whole number of scholars, 4; average attendance, 2.69. One pupil did not commence until the 5th week. Studying reading, 4; spelling, 4; penmanship, 2; arithmetic, 3; geography, 1. Roll of honor: Winfred W. Gilpatric. Number of visits by parents and others, 13. Wages of teacher per month, $9; including board, $15. Whole amount of school money, $27.86. Simeon C. Brown, Prudential Committee.

District No. 10.

One term of seven weeks, commencing Oct. 22, taught by Miss Alice A. Matthews, of Hebron. It was her second term of school. The order was excellent, but the improvement in studies was not so remarkable as I have seen. I visited the school twice. Whole number of scholars, 5; average attendance, 4.5. Studying reading, 5; spelling, 5; penmanship, 3; arithmetic, 3; geography, 3. Roll of honor: Archie B. Nichols. Ralph W. Nichols, Ora A. Nichols, Charlie Small. Number of visits by parents and others, 5. Wages of teacher per month, $8; board and fuel ($10) given by the district. Whole amount of school money, $11.35. Arthur W. Nichols, Prudential Committee.

Union District No. 1. (Bridgewater and Plymouth.)

Two terms of school, both under the instruction of Mrs. Belle Nutting, of Plymouth. Mrs. Nutting is a teacher of great experience, and taught this school several terms years ago. The school is very backward, pupils 13 years old only going to division. The register is full of absence marks, and whose fault is it? I visited the first term twice, and the last

term once. The order was excellent at each of my visits. The first term of 7 weeks began May 7. Whole number of pupils, 13; average attendance, 10.9. Whole number studying reading, 13; spelling, 13; penmanship, 10; arithmetic, 8; geography, 7. Roll of honor: Jennie Grover, Nora Mitchell, Irena Braley. Number of visits by parents and others, 6. The second term of 5.2 weeks began Oct. 27. Whole number of pupils, 8; average attendance, 6. Studying reading, 8; spelling, 8; penmanship, 5; arithmetic, 6; geography, 4; vocal music, 4. Roll of honor: Nora Mitchell. Number of visits by parents and others, 11. Wages of teacher per month, (both terms) $12; including board, $4.50.* Whole amount of school money, from Bridgewater, $20.77. John Nutting, Prudential Committee. Two scholars in the district that attended no school.

I have visited all the schools at the close except No. 8, and have reported them as they appeared to me. But here let me say a word in regard to schools in general. In some of the districts (not all) are the schools conducted on a plan that will instruct and elevate them? Is there not a scramble to see who shall and who shall not be Prudential Committee? Do not hard feelings begin here? And when the school begins are the district not ready to form sides, for or against the teacher? Is the school really not a bone of contention, at which the whole district are snapping, or does not the teacher receive her lesson in regard to this or that pupil—how to use them, &c., and a thousand and one things which detract from the school? If we have districts in which evils like, and similar, to these exists, let them be rooted out now and forever. My idea in regard to a school is that you should secure a perfectly competent teacher, in every sense and meaning of the word—this is the foundation of your school; next provide your children with a proper supply of books; and here, unless you are competent to make suggestions that will advance the good of the school, let it alone. Don't talk before children to the detriment of any

*As put down in register.

school, and be sure and keep all neighborhood quarrels out of the school-room. It seems to me that if teachers would attend teacher's institutes, and visit each other's schools they might gain many new ideas. It will not do for a teacher to stand still, they must be up and doing, teach new ideas and not all old ones. A teacher should have sound judgment, and be able to instruct in the moral as well as the mental education of their pupils; they should not strictly confine themselves to the text-books, but should be able to use their own head for one, which ought to be better than any printed one. Some think if a person has an education that they are competent to teach, but from this I beg to differ.

I have introduced Robinson's Complete and First-Steps in arithmetic in all the schools, and will state how far the advanced class in each district, except Nos. 8 and 9, went: No. 1 to page 293; No. 3 to page 438; No. 5 to page 265; No. 7 to page 209; No. 10 to page 67; Union No. 1 to page 51. Each teacher's desk was presented with a set of books by the publishers.

The roll of honor should contain the names of those only who have been present every half day of the term without being tardy.

Whole number of scholars of this town, not less than five years of age, who have attended school two weeks or more, 94. Number of children between 5 and 15, who have attended no school during the year, 4. Number of scholars between the ages of 5 and 15, as reported by the selectmen, 67; 35 boys and 32 girls. Whole amount of school money last year, $499.-74; this year, $468.08.

JOHN L. MORRISON, *S. S. Committee.*

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